



ATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

June 12, 2017

Mr. Douglas Carey
Senior Engineering Geologist
California Regional Water Quality Control Board—Lahontan Region
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

**Re: Approval of California Regional Water Quality Control Board—Lahontan Region,
2017 Request Regarding Residual Water at Pond 3, Leviathan Mine, Alpine
County, California, dated June 7, 2017**

Dear Mr. Carey:

EPA has completed its review of the Regional Board staff's June 7, 2017 email request describing the process for handling the wet sludge that remains from the emergency spring treatment operations in Pond 3. To facilitate drying of the sludge for removal, the Regional Board plans to siphon free water from the Pond 3 overflow inlet to Leviathan Creek. The flow rate of water siphoned from Pond 3 shall remain less than the 5-gallon per minute, which is the monitoring threshold utilized at the Pond 1 Pit Clarifier, Pond Water Treatment System (PWTS).

Numerous laboratory analyses have shown that the treated effluent from the Pond 3 emergency spring treatment, as well as at the PWTS, comply with removal action discharge criteria.

As long as the siphoned water remains clear, free of suspended matter, and within the acceptable pH range, this water is expected to meet the removal action discharge criteria.

This letter transmits EPA's concurrence with Regional Board staff's proposal to siphon water from Pond 3 at flow rates of about one-gallon per minute.

EPA requests that Water Board provide daily water quality parameter measurements (pH, specific conductance, temperature), as well as visual characteristics of the siphoned water (clarity, color, suspended matter). Please report these observations to EPA on a weekly basis. If the pH drifts outside of the discharge requirements (lower than 6.5 or above 8.5 Standard Units), please cease discharge of effluent, and notify EPA in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (415) 972-3003 or deschambault.lynda@epa.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynda Deschambault". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first name "Lynda" being more prominent than the last name.

Lynda Deschambault
Remedial Project Manager

Cc by electronic Email:

Norm Harry, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Anthony Brown, Atlantic Richfield Company
David Friedman, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection
Kenneth Maas, United States Forest Service
Tom Maurer, United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Toby McBride, United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Steve Hampton, California Department of Fish and Wildlife